

History of
ST. JOHN'S LODGE

No. 4

A. F. & A. M.
North Carolina

By C. L. PRIDGEN
P. M. St. John's Lodge No. 4
D. D. G. Master Fifth Masonic District



1760 to 1923

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1760 to 1907.

THE earliest date of the formation of Masonry is beyond the memory of man; beyond the traditions of nations, and beyond the record of history. Therefore it is veiled in darkness and mystery. It has existed from time immemorial and has developed from the purely operative to the purely speculative work. It is unnecessary in this article to pursue the investigation to so remote a date. The Craft are well satisfied that MOST EXCELLENT KING SOLOMON was the first recorded Grand Master of Masonry and at the building of his famous Temple, he used the Masonic Art in accomplishing his plans and created some of the later degrees. It must be patent to thinking minds that some system must have been necessary for the control, guidance, and payment of so large a number of workmen (153,303) to the perfect satisfaction of all. This to the Initiated, is explained through Masonry. That the greatest and best men of all ages have been promoters of Masonry joining in their meetings and endeavors is the greatest seal of approval that can be given to any organization. Through all the ages Masonry has stood every test of time and of conditions. Many believe that the order was instituted by Divine Inspiration to protect and preserve the Christian religion whether this be true or not, we do know that the Christian world owes the preservation of its teachings to this grand old institution. Most of the great Kings, among whom are Hiram King of Tyre, and Cyrus, King of Persia; the great Philosophers, among whom is Pythagoras; the great evangelists, St. John The Baptist and St. John the evangelist and St. Paul, that grand old man of the Holy Bible and all important personages especially the PROPHETS were WE KNOW, eminent patrons of Masonry. This of itself must show that Masonry has a noble purpose and sublime principles. A longer discourse here is out of place but we recommend the study of the origin of Masonry to those interested. This paper deals with the history of St. John's Lodge No. 4 of Kinston, N. C. Sad to relate, my brothers, even the history of our own Lodge is not complete. The ruthless hand of war and the devastations of fire have destroyed the early records of our Grand Lodge as well as our own. I have talked with Brothers of this Lodge now deceased who had been members of this Lodge for sixty-eight years

and others for fifty-two years and these old Brethren had preserved in memory that the date of St. John's organization was 1760. Brother S. H. Rountree who was our representative to the Grand Lodge for fifty-two years, Grand Custodian for eight years, and Grand Lecturer for twenty-eight years was well satisfied that it was 1760. But as our papers and records were all burned we have no positive proof. The Grand Lodge of the State was first formed in 1771 and therefore there are no records prior to this date. It was stated by these old brethren that St. John's was originally chartered by a provincial Grand Master representing the Grand Lodge of England and that our original charter was thus obtained. Brother William James Hughan, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of England, in looking up this record for me, found a note book used by the Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England down to 1768 which had not been discovered before. It says that Benjamin Smith, Esq., Speaker of the house of Assembly was appointed Provincial Grand Master of North Carolina, October 14th, 1761, by the Earl of Aberdeen, Grand Master of England. (Brother Marshall De Lancey Haywood in his history says—"that this was Benjamin Smith of South Carolina and an uncle of the Benjamin Smith of North Carolina").

The Wilmington Lodge (now St. John's No. 1) paid for its charter in England June 27th, 1754, and was recorded down to 1813 as was the Halifax Lodge now Royal White Hart No. 2. Kinston Lodge is not on the register as its charter was granted locally but the note book shows Kingston Lodge reported by the Provincial Grand Master of North America to the Grand Secretary of England. This charter was signed and issued by the Provincial Grand Master himself and was deemed a regular charter by the Grand Lodge of England as the laws were then. Brother David Reid, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland also says that there can be no doubt of the existence of St. John's Lodge No. 3 at Kingston and that it was a regular Lodge according to the laws of that time. (1760)

Brother Marshall De Lancey Haywood, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, thinks that St. John's Lodge was chartered locally at the same time as New Berne Lodge (now St. John's No. 3). I think he has our Lodge confused with Kinston Lodge No. 316 also, as he speaks of Kinston Lodge being at the formation of the Grand Lodge. Brother S. R. Dunn and I took a copy of the record and seal of a paper of that date which seal bore St. John's No. 3, Kingston. I think that the printed record in the code is a mistake, and probably the source of his information. Kinston had not dropped the "G" from its name and it would have been Kingston Lodge in any event. Our tradition will live on however "that we originated in 1760", but in failure to produce actual proof St. John's Lodge is given credit as having been probably instituted by Joseph Montfort, Provincial Grand Master of North Carolina; James Milner, Deputy Grand Master and William Brimage, Grand Secretary who were commissioned by the Honorable Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England in 1771. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina

was organized in 1771 and met at times in different places. Then the Revolution against England by the Colonies took place and the Grand Lodge ceased to work and its records and papers were lost or destroyed. On December 27th, 1787, the Grand Lodge met at Tarboro, North Carolina to reorganize and to adopt a Masonic Declaration of Independence dissolving their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. Bear this in mind because as St. John's Lodge No. 3, Kingston, N. C. was represented there, it certainly makes it appear that she then belonged to the Grand Lodge of England. Nine Lodges were assembled there and reorganized the Grand Lodge, among which are recorded, Kinston Lodge No. 3 of Kinston, but this I think is a mistake in printing as I have before explained, and should have been St. John's No. 3. Richard Caswell, the first Governor of North Carolina as an independent state, was Master of St. John's No. 3, James Glasgow, Secretary of State was Senior Warden and William Randall was Junior Warden; all these were our representatives to the organization of the Grand Lodge. In the election of the first Grand Officers, Richard Caswell our representative and Samuel Johnson were candidates for the office of Grand Master, the result, was the election of Samuel Johnson by a majority of three and Richard Caswell was then elected Deputy Grand Master. James Glasgow, one of our representatives, was elected Grand Secretary. The original minutes of this meeting, bear the signatures of these illustrious Brethren of St. John's Lodge No. 4 and other great men of those days and were only recently discovered by accident and are now safely guarded by our enthusiastic, earnest, and efficient Grand Secretary, John C. Drewry.

1788

In this year, St. John's Lodge No. 3 of Kingston had the honor to give to the Grand Lodge its *second Grand Master, Gov. Richard Caswell, our representative*, was the honored man. *James Glasgow, another of our sons, was chosen for Senior Grand Warden.* The Grand Lodge met at Hillsboro, N. C., and the records of this meeting still exist.

1789

In this year, the Nation, State, Grand Lodge and St. John's Lodge No. 4 had the great misfortune, to lose their distinguished Governor, Master and friend, Grand Master Richard Caswell; he died on the 10th day of November 1789. The Grand Lodge, passed suitable resolutions and ordered crepe worn on the left arm for thirty days. It showed how keenly they felt the loss and in what high esteem he was held. St. John's Lodge also passed suitable resolutions. James Glasgow our representative, was this year chosen, for Deputy Grand Master. Samuel Johnson being again elected as Grand Master.

1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797.

Saint John's Lodge continues to be represented at the Grand Lodge. James Glasgow, holds the office of Deputy Grand Master each of these

respective years. A great controversy had arisen over the numbers of the Lodges; Wilmington and Halifax insisted they were both No. 1, New Bern that she was No. 2, Kinston that she was No. 3. At Fayetteville in 1790 the Grand Lodge passed a resolution ordering the secretary to write to the several Lodges and request them to send delegates to New Bern to the Grand Lodge on the 24th of June 1791 and make their claims and receive charters accordingly and that it would be the last time that the Grand Lodge would ever notice a claim. Eighteen lodges were present, and Wilmington was given No. 1; Halifax, No. 2; New Bern No. 3, and Kinston No. 4. This is on record and also that peace was not restored until 1794. St. John's Lodge has ever since, held clear title, to NUMBER FOUR, except as will be hereafter stated. In 1797 St. John's Lodge No. 4 was represented by Probert Collier at the communication when the Grand Lodge was incorporated by the state. Thomas Carroll petitioned the Grand Lodge for the Past Master's degree and represented St. John's Lodge No. 4 also.

1798

In this year several valuable papers from St. John's Lodge No. 4 still exist. In his letter to the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lecturer speaks in high terms of St. John's Lodge No. 4 and praises their personnel and business system. There is a paper by Dallam Caswell (son of Gov. Richard Caswell) Secretary of St. John's Lodge No. 4, stating that Probert Collier is a Past Master and representative of St. John's Lodge No. 4 to the Grand Lodge. The seal is attached by a blue ribbon to the document dated November 9th, 1798. There is another paper very valuable to us, for it gives us the names of the officers for this year. It is a communication signed by J. N. Lovick, James Bright and R. W. Caswell. It appears that John Lovick was Master, James Bright, Senior Warden, Winston Caswell, Junior Warden and Dallam Caswell, Secretary. Our representative this year helped to lay the corner stone of the University of North Carolina, which ceremony was performed by the Grand Lodge of the state, November 22nd, 1798, B. Probert Collier acting as Junior Grand Warden. Probert Collier was also present at a meeting of the Grand Lodge November 24th, 1798, acting as Senior Grand Deacon and presented certain instructions from St. John's Lodge No. 4 to him as their representative which were read and referred to a committee. A resolution was passed by the Grand Lodge appointing R. Williams, Grand Secretary; R. W. Freear and Probert Collier a committee to investigate the accounts of the Grand Lodge and Kinston Lodge ie; St. John's Lodge No. 4 and report to the next meeting; it seems from this that it was a custom to refer to Lodges by their location instead of name and number which will account for the earlier mistake in the name of our Lodge mentioned before, as the seal referred to above from our Lodge bears the Lodge's name as a silent and lasting witness that she was then St. John's NUMBER FOUR.

1799

This year there is found a paper signed by James Bright and Joseph Elliot and others protesting against being required to pay dues they were of opinion had been paid and were not aware of a resolution that was passed in the Grand Lodge relieving St. John's No. 4 of these dues. A paper signed by James Bright, Secretary of St. John's Lodge No. 4, stating that the Grand Lecturer Francis Northrop had visited St. John's Lodge No. 4 and produced a writ of deputation which was read in open Lodge and its contents duly complied with on the 20th day of August, 1799.

1800

This year there appears a report to the Grand Lodge by Grand Lecturer Francis Lorthrop in which he states that he visited St. John's Lodge No. 4 and found every thing in good condition and he praises the Lodge. I also noted the fact that he writes from Kingston while St. John's papers are dated from Kinston. John Coart was Master of St. John's No. 4 and represented us in the Grand Lodge.

1801, 1802, 1803.

We were represented at the Grand Lodge and Brother William Davenport held the office of Grand Junior Deacon; there was nothing of further importance to us.

1804, 1805, 1806, 1807.

We were represented in the Grand Lodge each of these years but were not honored by any office; the Grand Treasurer, General Smith shows that during the whole number of years before, down to 1807, Saint John's Lodge paid her dues in full except the amount donated by the Grand Lodge which Saint John's Lodge protested they had paid and prayed to be relieved of.

1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814.

The reports for these years were irregular at times and the Lodge appears to have become inactive, but we were represented until 1813. In 1813 and 1814 we were not represented and no record of interest to us is recorded.

1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825.

I am sorry to inform you that during these years St. John's Lodge No. 4 became dormant.

1826

This year St. John's Lodge was revived and worked under dispensation.

1827

At this year's meeting of the Grand Lodge, Jesse Speight for the committee on Charters and Dispensations recommended that St. John's Lodge be restored and granted a charter which passed the Grand Lodge, but as the custom was then we were numbered 96 as the Grand Lodge then filled in old numbers and had given number 4 to a newly organized Lodge. This should be remembered as I will refer to it later showing that St. John's Lodge should have been given No. 4 when it was revived.

1827, 1828.

William B. Kilpatrick, represented us at the Grand Lodge. The minutes of St. John's No. 96 are on file and show Dallam Caswell Master both years, in fact all the same officers hold their stations as before. I refer you to the separate list of officers for the officers names and will only give members names here. They were: Walter Davenport, Lewis C. Desmond, Wm. B. Kilpatrick, Geo. P. Kincey, Mortimer Bright, John Jackson Jr., Wm. B. West, Melcher Rhem, Joseph Loftin, Joshua S. Croom, Isaac Coleman, Matthew Harvey, Lockhart R. Coleman, Joseph Smyth, John S. Gatlin. There were initiated 4, passed 4, raised 4, dimitted 3, rejected 4, total number of members 27. On July 10, 1828, the following resolution was read in open Lodge by Brother Gatlin, "That it is as necessary that all good Free-Masons should set examples of industry and economy, as it is that they should set examples of virtue, morality, friendship and brotherly love. Therefore, Resolved by the Lodge that they will pursue all laudable and economical ways and means within the convenient reach of their power by which they may be enabled to live free from pecuniary embarrassment and thereby secure to themselves and families that portion of domestic happiness so necessarily required to constitute the present happiness of man at home and abroad and that they will celebrate St. John's day in June 1829, dressed in the manufacture of their own family or in the manufacture of the State". Showing that our people have ever been a patriotic, conscientious and God fearing people. On June 22, 1828, the Lodge met and opened in the Entered Apprentice's degree. Here let me say that it was the custom then to do all business in the E. A. lodge. The Lodges opened up instead of down as they do now and if there was work in the F. C. or M. M. lodge, these lodges were duly opened and closed down to the E. A. again. Also that an applicant was required to petition for each degree separately, as he took them. On this day an E. A. lodge was opened and then a F. C. lodge. Why this was done I cannot ascertain. The M. M. lodge was not opened at all. They finally closed in the E. A. degree. I could not ascertain if a public affair in those days had any relation to a F. C. lodge or not. In this instance it is recorded that the F. C. lodge being opened, they proceeded in a body to the Academy and had a public installation of their officers and a public address by Brother General Jesse Speight, before a large and respectable audience. They returned through various streets to the lodge room and nothing further appearing in the F. C. lodge, it

was closed. Nothing further appearing in the E. A. lodge, it was closed in due and ancient form.

1829, 1830.

William B. Kilpartick represented us in the Grand Lodge this year nothing of importance to St. John's No. 4 occurred.

1831

William Davenport represented us in the Grand Lodge this year and the following extra names were reported:

John Jackson Sr, Thomas Ransome, Riley Jackson, George T. Lovick, Warren Kilpatrick, Guilford Houston, Barney Wayne, Abram Conyteson and Franklin B. Mosley, the last name having died.

1832 - 1833.

James E. Metts represented us in the Grand Lodge this year, the following new names were reported, David Jones, B. T. Byrd and D. Caswell. Could this have been the same Dallam Caswell who was Master before, or was it his son? We cannot tell. The Grand Treasurer's report shows all the Lodges in debt this year, but St. John's owed less than any.

1834-1835 and 1836.

We were represented at the Grand Lodge and paid our dues but nothing of importance to us occurred.

1837.

There was some friction in the Lodge this year, and the Master J. E. Metts attended the Grand Lodge and surrendered the charter of St. John's Lodge, but some of the good Brethren were there and reorganized, petitioned and received the same charter back the same day by a vote of the Grand Lodge, there is no record of why this occurred or what the trouble was.

1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843.

Nothing of importance occurred; we were represented in the Grand Lodge and kept our dues paid, but there are no other records yet found of interest to St. John's Lodge No. 4.

1844.

We find the following new names reported this year: Amos Harvey, who was a Mason in good standing for sixty-eight years and who died Nov. 15, 1906, and has given me much valuable information concerning St. John's Lodge. Also Solomon H. Walker, Needham Loftin, John B. Clark, Matthew Byrd, Henry H. Phillips, and Thomas S. Clarke.

1845.

We find St. John's taking on new life this year and the following new names were recorded: James E. Metts, Benjamin Williams, Alexander Wilson, Joseph McClenny, Fred Cox, Royal R. Canfield, Thomas Wooten, Richard Kennedy, John Davis Jr., Jacob Hartsfield, Thomas Waters Jr., William H. Phillips, Leonidas S. Coleman, Joshua Herring Lewis M. Herring, Joseph G. Herring, Jesse Cobb, Adam Davis, William R. Row, Richard I. Taylor, Allen Davis, James A. Mason, and non-affiliates Henry F. Bond, John L. Taylor, Pickney Hardee, William H. Croom.

1846.

We were still represented at the Grand Lodge but were not honored with an office. The following new names were added this year, R. C. Williams, H. W. Blunt, John Jackson, James H. Spence, R. B. Taylor, Zaddock Einstein.

1847-1848 and 1849.

I am sorry to again inform you that the Lodge failed to make returns to the Grand Lodge in 1847 and 1848 and became dormant during 1849. It was because of some friction but what the trouble was I could not ascertain.

1850.

This year St. John's was revived and worked under dispensation and has continued to work harmoniously ever since, paying its Grand Lodge dues, making proper returns and being represented at the Grand Lodge to this date.

1851.

St. John's Lodge was granted its charter numbered 96 and this charter was in use until burned in 1895. The following were the new names added this year: Richard W. King, John B. Gaylord, George W. Venters, Nicholas Hunter (Clerk of the court for 29 years) Richard F. Hodges, John H. Coward and Fred J. Linton. There were initiated four, passed four, raised three, admitted eight.

1852.

This year St. John's gave to Masonry a grand old Mason, who represented St. John's at the Grand Lodge for fifty-three years without a single absence; who was Grand Lecturer for twenty-eight years, Grand Custodian of the work for eight years and who died Sept. 13th, 1906. He had been a constant enthusiastic and earnest member of this Lodge for fifty-four years; I refer to brother S. H. Rountree Sr. We also gave to Masonry this year Brother Lewis Kilpatrick who demitted from St. John's in 1866 but remained a member of Rountree Lodge No. 233 until his death in November, 1906. There were also re-

ported Drury H. Phillips, Francis M. Pittman, Christopher L. Davis, William H. Pough, Neidham Case. There were initiated nine, passed nine, raised nine, admitted one, demitted one, died one.

1853.

We were represented at the Grand Lodge this year but were not honored with an office. The following new names were added, showing St. John's working on to success: R. H. Rountree, R. R. Taylor, D. H. Phillips, C. L. Davis, H. Brackett, W. G. Taylor, J. Parker, J. B. Webb, W. F. Mewborn, B. Aller, J. M. Hines and John H. Stevenson. There were initiated five, passed five, and raised five, admitted five, demitted three, died one.

1854.

Jesse Jackson was master and represented us at the Grand Lodge. Nothing of importance to us occurred. The following new names were added: Robert E. Davis, Francis Smith. There were initiated one, passed two, raised two, rejected five; total number of members this year was thirty-five.

1855.

The report of a special committee in the Grand Lodge appointed for that purpose showed that we were entitled to No. 4 but why it was not given to us I do not know except, for the fact that several other old Lodges were in like condition and among the number our Lodge was overlooked through mistake; I will refer to this again in the year 1902. S. H. Rountree represented us at the Grand Lodge and W. A. Pugh was a representative also. There was expelled one, died one, demitted one; total number of members thirty-two.

1856.

S. H. Rountree was Worshipful Master and represented us in the Grand Lodge. The following new names were added, S. J. Sutton, G. W. Jones, Thomas W. Rouse, John F. Chatterton, Hugh Nelson, E. A. Best, J. M. Kirkpatrick, W. W. Dunn. There were initiated nine, passed nine and raised nine, rejected one, demitted two, died one. Total number of members forty-seven.

1857.

S. H. Rountree represented us at the Grand Lodge. The following new names were added: H. R. Strong, Sam I. Sutton, Jas. G. Davis, G. W. Jones, Benjamin D. Frost, Jesse B. Moore. There were initiated, seven, passed seven and raised seven, rejected four, admitted one and non-affiliates nine; whole membership fifty-three.

1858.

S. H. Rountree was our representative at the Grand Lodge. The following new names were added: Doctor Leroy Chappell, A. H. Evans,

R. Pope, non-affiliates Richard Kennedy and Benjamin F. Davidson. Initiated three, passed two, raised two, admitted two, demitted two non-affiliates seven; whole number fifty-three.

1859.

W. W. Dunn was worshipful Master; he and Brother S. H. Rountree represented us at the Grand Lodge. The following new name was added: A. S. Dickinson. Initiated two, passed three, raised two, rejected three, demitted two, died one, non-affiliates, eight; whole number fifty-five.

1860.

This was the year OF OUR ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY. There was something done in celebration of the event, but I can not learn what *was* done as there are no records. The Grand Secretary of this year writes: "owing to a case of small pox breaking out on a person in my residence, in which were the books and papers of the Grand Lodge, I am compelled to omit for this year the returns of subordinate lodges". Brother Rountree and Brother Harvey are now dead and it cannot be learned what was done that day much to my regret.

1861.

Brother S. H. Rountree was our representative at the Grand Lodge. The following new names were added, R. C. West, L. Thorn, Lucas Van Buskirke, Initiated two, passed two and raised two. Died one, non-affiliates eight, whole number fifty-two.

1862.

W. W. Dunn and S. H. Rountree were our representatives at the Grand Lodge. Brother Dunn introduced resolutions in praise of Grand Master William G. Hill which were passed by the Grand Lodge. J. G. Cox and F. K. Miller were the only new names added; initiated, passed and raised two, rejected four, died two, non-affiliates thirteen, whole number sixty-six.

1863.

Our representatives to the grand lodge this year were S. H. Rountree and W. W. Dunn. Brother Dunn was placed on the committee of "Charters and Dispensations". The following new names were added: S. Brooks, J. G. Davis, F. M. Harper, J. S. May, E. Williams, W. H. West, J. Wilkins, S. B. West, A. Wilson, J. B. Stanley, J. G. Stanley, F. M. Pittman. Initiated nineteen, passed nineteen, raised eighteen, rejected seven, admitted one, died one, non-affiliates twelve, whole number eighty-three.

1864.

This year St. John's was again honored by the Grand Lodge. Brother W. W. Dunn was made Grand Junior Deacon; he was also appointed on the committee of "Charters and Dispensations" and on the committee on Credentials. The following new names were added: H. A. Thompson, Jesse Kemps, Lovit Lewis, E. Wooten, T. J. Hill, J. T. Brown, B. F. Phillips, J. Park, Edward Williams, R. R. Bryant, H. B. Turner, Arch Cox, S. J. Carrow. Non-affiliates, O. S. Dewey, W. S. Reddit. Initiated forty-one, passed thirty-nine, raised twenty-eight, rejected twenty-one, demitted two, died two, non-affiliates twelve, whole number one hundred and eighteen.

1865.

This year W. W. Dunn was Grand Junior Deacon and S. H. Rountree represented us in the Grand Lodge. Grand Master J. M. Mc Cormick's address states that the Lodges will be excused from returns as Sherman's Army broke open Lodges, stole the jewels, books, etc., and destroyed the furniture. W. W. Dunn was again made Grand Junior Deacon and S. H. Rountree was made Grand Lecturer. Here are the returns of St. John's Lodge No. 96 for 1865 at the close of the terrible war. S. H. Rountree, W. M., W. W. Dunn, S. W., Jesse Jackson, Treas., Ed Dill, J. W., S. B. West, Secretary, William G. Taylor, S. D., L. A. Mewborn, J. D., Thomas J. Presson and Joseph B. Cummings, Stewards, D. J. Long, Tyler. Members J. T. Askew, L. H. Aldridge, E. F. Albritton, H. F. Bunn, Doctor H. W. Blount, Doctor J. P. Bryan, Doctor W. C. Brown, E. A. Best, Spencer Brooks, R. J. Byrd, H. R. Byrd, B. R. Byrant, A. G. Brown, John K. Brown, John I. Coleman, William Cannon, E. F. Cox, W. A. Croom, C. H. Clark, J. G. Cox, S. J. Carrow, Charles Clark, Archibald Cox, L. V. Cox, J. B. Cummings, W. B. Cotton, R. E. Davis, Chauncey Grey, C. L. Davis, J. S. Davis, E. H. Dill, D. W. Dill, L. Friend, R. F. Greer, George Gray, Nicholas Hunter, Amos Harvey, T. A. Heath, Mat Harvey, J. M. Hines, F. M. Harper, J. Pinckney Hardee, Simon E. Hodges, T. J. Hill, T. A. Herring, John Jackson, George A. Jackson, T. F. Jackson, W. A. Jones, G. W. Jones, Lewis B. Kilpatrick, Warren Kilpatrick, Lewis Kilpatrick, Doctor J. M. Kirkpatrick, Lovit Lewis, L. A. Mewborn, L. H. Mewborn, L. J. Mewborn, J. H. Moore, W. T. Mosely, Lewis Mc Cullen, S. W. Noble, R. W. Pope, D. A. Phillips, W. A. Pough, T. J. Presson, B. F. Parrott, B. F. Phillips, John Parks, J. M. Parrott, G. A. Richardson, W. F. Rountree, J. B. Russell, J. F. I. Sutton, William Sutton, J. H. Stevenson, S. I. Sutton, S. W. Scarboro, T. R. Smith, W. J. Smith, B. F. Sutton, William S. Summerell, R. T. Spence, Thomas Sutton, L. H. Sutton, S. B. Taylor, R. B. Taylor, J. E. Taylor, A. W. Taylor, H. B. Turner, H. A. Thompson, B. C. West, Doctor Thos. A. Woodley, J. B. Webb, James Waters, J. Wilkins, W. K. West, William White, I. K. Witherington, Isaac Williams, T. F. Waters, Edward Wooten, Jerry Waters; non-affiliates, L. C. Desmond, Pinckney Hardee, J. G. Herring, R. Wallace, R. H. Rountree, S. T. May, H. C. Huggins. Initiated eight, passed seven, raised four, admitted two, died six, whole number one hundred and twenty-three.

1866.

This year Brother S. H. Rountree appointed on the committee "Finance" at the Grand Lodge and W. W. Dunn on "Work, Proceedings and Returns". S. H. Rountree reports as Grand Lecturer that he requested the Lecturers to meet to perfect any error in the Stevenson work, and Burnace Walker and T. M. Gardner met with him in Wilmington, N. C. Past Grand Master A. Martin, could not be with them. W. W. Dunn again chosen as Grand Senior Deacon. At this meeting also the Grand Lodge ordered that there be chosen, a Deputy Custodian of work and eight lecturers. S. H. Rountree was appointed Grand Lecturer, W. W. Dunn introduced a resolution, which was adopted, recommending "The Keystone" a Masonic magazine published in Raleigh as the organ of the Grand Lodge. The following new names were added: S. Brock West, Thomas L. Hartsfield, L. Harvey, W. W. N. Hunter, Simon Kilpatrick, L. L. Prathen, Joseph H. Dibble, Bird Lancaster, William B. Moye, William P. Metts, Stephen Miller, Henry S. Nunn, S. B. Turnage, Rev. L. Thorn, Doctor Jacob A. Hartsfield, S. W. Bracken, Amos Evans, R. F. Hill and Kenneth Mc Kenzie. Initiated six, passed five, raised nine, rejected three, admitted one, died one, demitted seven, whole number, one hundred and thirty.

1867

This years record shows Brother S. H. Rountree acting as Grand Senior Warden and W. W. Dunn, Grand Senior Deacon of the Grand Lodge. Brothers Dunn and Rountree were both placed on the committee of "Charters and Dispensations". The Stevenson work was adopted by Grand Lodge, in 1849 and this years record shows Brother S. H. Rountree, Grand Lecturer present in the Grand Lodge with Brother L. L. Stevenson, P. G. M., of Virginia whose work had been adopted. S. H. Rountree was also placed on the committee of "Finance". Alfred Martin, Deputy Custodian of the Work reported that that S. H. Rountree and four others came before him and showed that they were qualified to teach the Stevenson work. Brother Stevenson reported that Brother Alfred Martin had the work as he taught it. This year there was passed a resolution to appoint three custodians to learn the work direct from Stevenson and that they keep the work and teach and give certificates of proficiency to all lecturers before they be allowed to teach. This was introduced by R. W. York and received the second of W. A. Jenkins. The work was exemplified by Brother Stevenson and W. G. Hill, Lodge No. 218. Grand Lecturer Rountree reported that he was well pleased with the Stevenson work and had taught several lodges who were also pleased with it. He says, that some of the officers of St. John's Lodge No. 96 refused to take the work. The following new names were added this year: Joel A. Heath, James R. Summers, H. F. Granger, (Grand Master in 1880) Joseph Williams. Initiated one, passed three, raised two, rejected five, demitted seventeen, died one, excluded ten, whole number ninety-nine.

1868

S. H. Rountree acted as Grand Senior Warden. The Grand Master reports having called a convention of Stevenson Masons, W. G. Hill, S. H. Rountree, A. T. Jerkins, Alfred Martin and L. L. Stevenson himself. They met in February and all got the work straight. Later in the session S. H. Rountree was appointed Custodian of the work for two years and Henry S. Lee of St. John's Lodge No. 96, Custodian for one year and R. W. Best for three years. S. H. Rountree was also appointed on the committee of "Finance" and other special committees. Grand Master R. W. Best with S. H. Rountree then exemplified the work. The Grand Lodge then accepted what they called the "Best Work", on December 9th, 1868. At the close S. H. Rountree was elected Grand Junior Warden. Thus was St. John's highly honored and back to her early glory. The following new names were reported: R. F. Hill, T. L. Hartsfield, William P. Metts, John O'Connor. Admitted two, rejected two, suspended one, expelled one, excluded twenty-seven, reinstated ten, demitted two, died two, whole number ninety-seven.

1869

S. H. Rountree was Grand Junior Warden and as Deputy Custodian of the work reports that he lectured St. John's No. 96 March 1st for several weeks and again on August 1st for a week or two. E. J. Bowen, Grand Lecturer reports that he received a certificate from H. S. Lee, Grand Custodian that B. W. Hatcher, (the present Grand Lecturer) had been taught by him and that he recommended to Grand Custodian Best that B. W. Hatcher be given a certificate to teach which was granted. The work was exemplified by the Deputy Custodians and Hiram Lodge No. 40. S. H. Rountree was re-elected Grand Junior Warden and H. S. Lee of St. John's Lodge No. 96 was re-appointed as Deputy Custodian for one year. So we had two of the three Deputy Custodians of the work this year and the Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge which is enough honor for any Lodge and of which we are still proud. The following new names were added this year. Alex Nichols, Joseph Maier, L. McCullen, F. A. Abrams, C. F. Green, J. Williams, S. Brooten; initiated passed and raised four, admitted two, rejected two, excluded one, reinstated four, demitted five, died one, whole number eighty. We note in the Fraternal Dead the name of Brother Joseph B. Cummings.

1870

S. H. Rountree was Grand Junior Warden. H. S. Lee was appointed on committee "Charter and Dispensations" S. H. Rountree was appointed on Committee of "Propositions and Grievances", he and the other Custodians exemplified the work. He was re-elected Grand Junior Warden. New names reported: J. W. Harper, L. H. Sutton and John Rhea. Initiated one, passed one, raised none, admitted one, rejected four, suspended one, excluded two, died one, whole number seventy-seven.

1871

S. H. Rountree was Grand Junior Warden this year. We note this year that on the resolution to sell St. John's College (the present orphan asylum). St. John's Lodge No. 96 cast her three votes solidly against it as did Brother Rountree as G. J. Warden. The work was exemplified by S. H. Rountree, Deputy Custodian and others. The new names this year were: F. C. Frazer, J. J. Rhodes, Rev. N. D. Meacham. Admitted one, rejected one, expelled one, excluded six, reinstated one, demitted one, whole number eighty-seven. We note the death of Brother R. J. Powell.

1872

S. H. Rountree was Grand Junior Warden, W. W. Dunn appointed on the committee "Work and Proceedings Returns" also, on committee of Propositions and Grievancies. Brother S. H. Rountree also on Minor Committees. This year St. John's College was made the Oxford Orphan Asylum. St. John's No. 96 and S. H. Rountree as Grand Junior Warden cast their votes for it. S. H. Rountree was appointed a committee on "Foreign Correspondence". S. H. Rountree acting as Grand Marshall helped to install the new Grand Officers. Kinston Lodge No. 316 was established this year. There was no Kinston Lodge in 1772. The following are the new names for this year: W. G. Harper, Joseph Darden, J. H. Paul, R. L. Paschal, J. S. Hughes, initiated, passed and raised two, rejected five, suspended one, expelled one, excluded one, demitted nine, died three, whole number Seventy.

1873

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represents us at the Grand Lodge. There was nothing of importance to St. John's this year. The following new names were reported: John B. Russell, non-affiliates, Henry A. Edwards. Admitted two, reinstated one, demitted seven, died two, whole number sixty-two. We note the fraternal dead R. F. Green and Reuben Wallace.

1874

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us again at meeting of the Grand Lodge; he was also appointed on committee on Grand Master's address, especially that part relative to non-affiliative Masons. You will see the result in the present law. The following new names were reported: S. H. Rountree, Jr., initiated three, passed four, raised four, rejected three, demitted one, died one, non-affiliated five, whole number sixty-eight. We note in the Fraternal dead Brother Joseph Waters.

1875.

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden, represented us in the Grand Lodge. He was appointed on the committee of "Suspensions and Expulsions". Nothing further of importance to us occurred. Initiated one, rejected two, demitted six, non-affiliates six; whole number sixty-two.

1876.

S. H. Rountree acted as Grand Junior Warden at the Grand Lodge and W. W. Dunn was also our representative. Nothing of importance to us occurred. Admitted one, excluded nineteen, reinstated one, died one, non-affiliates twenty-six, whole number sixty-three.

1877.

Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree represented us at the meeting of the Grand Lodge. He was also appointed on the committee on "Appeals". The Stevenson work was recalled by the Grand Lodge without the innovation made by Grand Master Best (who was expelled from the Grand Lodge on account of having made a cipher of the Best work. He was afterwards reinstated having admitted the wrong, and destroyed the cipher and appealed to the mercy of the Grand Lodge). Brother S. H. Rountree was appointed Grand Lecturer. Reinstated two, died three, whole number fifty-one. We note in the Fraternal dead, S. J. Carrow, John Jackson and H. W. Blount.

1878.

Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree represented us in the Grand Lodge; he was also appointed on the committee of "Propositions and Grievances". He was again appointed Grand Lecturer. The new names reported are as follows: J. T. Ball, J. Kinsey Davis, William C. Pittman, Job L. Stroud. Admitted one, excluded one, demitted three, died one, whole number forty-three. We note in the Fraternal dead, Doctor Thomas A. Woodley.

1879.

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden, again represented us in the Grand Lodge. He also made his report as Grand Lecturer. Nothing of importance to St. John's Lodge occurred. Initiated, passed and raised, one, excluded two, demitted three, died two, whole number forty-one. We note in the Fraternal dead J. H. Dibble, Nicholas Hunter.

1880.

Past Grand Junior Warden, S. H. Rountree represented us in the Grand Lodge; he was also appointed on Committee "Charters and Dispensations". The work was exemplified by Grand Lecturer, S. H. Rountree and others and he also assisted in the installation of the Grand Officers. Initiated, passed and raised three, reinstated two. Died one, whole number forty-nine. We note in Fraternal dead Brother Warren Kilpatrick.

1881.

Past Grand Junior Warden, S. H. Rountree again represented us in the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master reports that S. H. Rountree, G. W. Blount and Bernice Walker had met and satisfied him that they had the Stevenson work correct. S. H. Rountree was again chosen as Grand Lecturer; Brother S. I. Sutton was appointed on the Orphan Asylum Committee; Brother S. H. Rountree was appointed on the

following committees, "Grand Master's Address", "Suspensions and Expulsions". Brothers S. H. Rountree and Bernice Walker exemplified the work. The Grand Lodge convened in Kinston on August 3rd, 1881 and laid the corner stone of the first monument in North Carolina erected to a North Carolinian; the monument to Richard Caswell, the first Governor of North Carolina as a free state, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and once Master of St. John's Lodge No. 4. The following are the minutes of that session:

Special communication of the Grand Lodge convened in Kinston, N. C. August 3rd, A. D. 1881 A. L. 5881. The Grand Lodge opened in ample form at 10 o'clock A. M. In the Nichols Hall, Corner Caswell and Queen streets, (where Hotel Tull now stands).

M. W. Henry F. Granger, G. M.
 R. W. Jos. Southgate as S. G. M.
 R. W. J. Q. Jackson as G. Treas.
 R. W. F. D. Swindell as G. Chap.
 R. W., Wm. Coward as J. G. D.
 R. W., T. J. Whitaker as G. S. B.
 R. W., C. C. Fordham as G. Stew.
 R. W., C. J. Brooks as G. Stew.
 R. W. Geo. W. Blount as D. G. M.
 R. W., S. H. Rountree as J. G. W.
 R. W., Don W. Bain, G. Secretary.
 R. W., Alex Nichols as S. G. D.
 R. W., T. J. Presson as G. Marsh.
 R. W., Lewis H. Wilson as G. Pur.
 R. W., Miles Goodwin as G. Tyler.

The following Lodges were represented:

Hiram No. 40, Raleigh,	Zion No. 81, Trenton,
Fellowship No. 84, Smithfield,	Jerusalem No. 95, Hookerton,
St. John's No. 96, Kinston,	Franklin No. 109, Beaufort,
Wayne No. 112, Goldsboro,	Mt. Lebanon No. 117, Wilson,
Radiance No. 132, Snow Hill,	Lenoir No. 233, La Grange,
Rountree No. 243, Grifton,	Atlantic No. 294, Swan Quarter,
Pleasant Hill No. 304, Pink Hill,	Kinston No. 316, Kinston,
Durham No. 352, Durham,	And many others.

The Grand Master appointed Lewis Kilpatrick bearer of Great Lights, and T. J. Askew and Thomas H. Suggs his supporters. The Grand Master announced the purpose of the meeting and the procession was formed and moved through some of the principal streets to the monument in the following order:

Grand Tyler with drawn sword.

Grand Stewards with white rods.

S. I. Sutton with Square Level and Plumb, representing the principal Architect.

Grand Secretary.

Grand Treasurer.

Holy Bible, Square and Compasses. Carried by Lewis Kilpatrick.

Grand Chaplain.

G. J., Warden carrying silver vessel of oil.

G. S., Warden carrying silver vessel of wine.

D. G., Master carrying golden vessel of corn.

W. M. Benton of No. 84 carrying the Book of Constitutions.

Sen Grand Deacon.

Grand Master.

Jun Grand Deacon.

Chief Magistrate, and civil officers of the state and officers of the town of Kinston.

Carriages. Speakers and distinguished visitors.

On arriving at the monument the procession reversed order and the Grand Officers took positions on the North and East sides; the Brethren forming a hollow square. E. F. Cox, President of the Caswell Monument Association in a few well chosen words (they are on record) formerly requested the Grand Master to perform the services. Then follows the address by the Grand Master. Prayer by the Grand Chaplain. The following articles were then deposited in the stone. First: manuscript copy of the Meeklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20th, 1775. Second: Pamphlet containing the constitution of the United States and of North Carolina adopted by the Congress at Halifax, N. C. December 18th, 1776, Richard Caswell, President, and a copy of the Amendments of 1835. Third: a pamphlet containing the Constitution of North Carolina of 1875. Fourth: manuscript record of the Civil War and the Masonic Services of Richard Caswell. Fifth: a copy of the acts of the General Assembly of North Carolina of February 23rd and March 11th, 1881 to provide for the erection of this monument. Sixth: Turners N. C. Almanac for the year 1881 containing a register of the present Civil and Judicial officers of this state. Seventh: copies of the Raleigh News and Observer of July 29, 30 and 31st, containing a description of the Monument, inscription thereon and program of the ceremonies. Eighth: copy of the Goldsboro "Transcript and Messenger" of July 29th, 1881. Ninth: pamphlet copy of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of N. C., A. F. & A. M. adopted 1797 print of 1821. Tenth: proceedings of the Grand Lodge of N. C. ninety-fourth annual communication 1880. Eleventh: roll of Grand Officers who assist in the laying of this corner stone. Twelfth: English half penny coinage of 1771. Thirteenth: ancient foreign coin, half pence, inscription illegible. Fourteenth: silver coins of 1841, 1853 and 1854. Fifteenth: copy of the Kinston Journal of July 28th, 1881. Music was rendered by the New Berne silver cornet band. The corner stone was sprinkled with corn, wine and oil and laid in due form and the procession moved to the Court house square and enjoyed an oration by Hon. Zebulon B. Vance the Governor of this state. The Grand Master and the President of the Caswell Memorial Association then unveiled the monument. The Grand Lodge then returned to Nichols Hall where they closed in ample form.

This was indeed a big day for Masonry in Kinston. The traditions are, that the largest number of people ever seen here were assembled that day. Quite a large number of soldiers were in attendance. It is still referred to as the HOTTEST DAY KINSTON EVER HAD. A soldier died from heat and many were overcome, but the ceremonies were completed without interruption. It was peculiarly fitting that this monument to one of St. John's most honored sons was unveiled and its corner stone laid one hundred years later, by an old and honored son of St. John's, I refer to H. F. Granger the Grand Master who joined St. John's Lodge in 1867. Also that the President of the "Caswell Monument Association" should be a son of old St. John's, I refer to E. F. Cox he who managed the affair and unveiled the monument. I would be pleased to dwell longer on the details of St. John's history, but time and space bid me hasten. The following new names were reported this year: W. F. Loftin, H. W. Cummings, Jesse H. Hill, G. W. Cox, W. J. Pope, J. P. Tucker, initiated one, admitted one, died one, whole number forth-five. In the Fraternal dead we note Brother Joel A. Heath.

1882

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden is again representing us in the Grand Lodge. He was again re-appointed Grand Lecturer. There is nothing further of interest to St. John's Lodge. Initiated eight, passed seven, raised five, admitted two, reinstated four, died two, non-affiliates eleven, whole number fifty-three. In the Fraternal dead we note William F. Loftin and John S. Davis.

1883

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represents us again in the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge Records for this year were lost but Brother S. H. Rountree informed me that there were about four or five initiated, passed and raised this year. Nothing further of much importance to us was accomplished. He says that we were represented at the Grand Lodge, paid our dues and made proper returns.

1884

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represents us in the Grand Lodge. He was also appointed a "Special Committee" on "Appeals" he was re-appointed as Grand Lecturer. The following new names were reported this year: John F. Stricklin, John Cunningham, F. Abrams, James H. Banks, John F. Ballard, Joseph W. Ballard, John W. Ballard, R. T. Daughety, A. F. Daughety, J. K. Davis, initiated three, passed five, raised six, died one, whole number forty-seven. In fraternal dead we note Jesse Jackson.

1885

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden again represented us in the Grand Lodge. He was also appointed on the committee of "Propositions and Grievancies". There was nothing further of in-

terest to us. Initiated, passed and raised two, admitted one, reinstated one, excluded one, demitted two, died two, non-affiliates fourteen, whole number sixty. In the fraternal dead we note William C. Pittman and James Wilkins.

1886

This years record shows Brother S. H. Rountree as Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge. He also represented us this year in the Grand Lodge. He was reappointed Grand Lecturer. There was nothing further of interest to us. Initiated, passed and raised one, non-affiliates sixteen, whole number sixty-five.

1887

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us in the Grand Lodge. He was appointed on several minor committees. This year the Grand Lodge celebrated its Centennial by public exercises in the hall of the house of Representatives at the State Capital on January 12th, 1887 in which Brother Rountree took part; an oration was delivered by Eugene S. Martin. There was nothing of further importance to us and there are no local traditions concerning this year, which shows that this was not looked upon as our Centennial. Initiated two, passed two, raised one, excluded three, died one, non-affiliates fifteen, whole number sixty-one. In fraternal dead we note John Cunningham.

1888

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden and S. I. Sutton represented us in the Grand Lodge. S. H. Rountree appointed on Committee on "Charters Dispensations", S. I. Sutton was appointed on Committee of "Charter Returns of Subordinate" Lodges. S. H. Rountree was appointed on "Credentials" Committee. St. John's was also represented this year at a "Special Communication of the Grand Lodge" held at Morehead City on May 1st, 1888 to lay the corner stone of the "Teachers Assembly Building". There were initiated passed and raised one, demitted two, non-affiliates six, whole number eighty-one.

1889

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us at the Grand Lodge. He was also appointed on the "Credentials" committee and on the committee of "Charters and Dispensations". S. I. Sutton was appointed on the committee on "Work, Proceeding and Returns of subordinate lodges. There were initiated, two; passed, two; raised, one; admitted, one; reinstated, one; demitted, one; non-affiliated, thirty-five, whole number eighty-two.

1890

This year records shows Brother S. H. Rountree as Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge. S. H. Rountree and S. I. Sutton represented us at the Grand Lodge. Miss Mattie Rountree, daughter of

Brother S. H. Rountree, was placed in charge of the third form of girls at the Oxford Orphan Asylum. S. I. Sutton was appointed on the committee on Grand Lecturer's report. S. H. Rountree was appointed on the committee on the Grand Master's Address. He was also re-appointed Grand Lecturer. Later in the session he was appointed on the Masonic Jurisprudence committee, the most important committee in the Grand Lodge. The following new names are reported this year: W. F. Moore, Herman Bryan, Joe S. Cummings, E. H. Dill, Aaron Edwards, W. B. Griffin, L. B. Humphrey, B. F. Jones, D. E. Perry, John Rhem, H. B. Smith, S. B. Taylor. There were initiated, three; passed, one; raised, one; demitted, one; died, one; non-affiliates, thirty-four; whole number eighty. In the fraternal dead we note Brother J. H. Stevenson.

1891

Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree and S. I. Sutton represented us at the Grand Lodge. S. H. Rountree was appointed on the "Credential Committee" and also on the committee of "Charters and Dispensations". S. I. Sutton was appointed on the Committee on "Grand Lecturers Report". Miss Mattie Rountree was made editor of the "Orphan's Friend" the official organ of the Grand Lodge. S. H. Rountree assisted in installing the Grand Officers. B. W. Hatcher was appointed Grand Lecturer. Reposing special trust and confidence in S. H. Rountree the Grand Lodge appointed him a Special Deputy to reorganize Radiance Lodge No. 132 at Snow Hill. Initiated four; passed, five; raised, five; admitted, two; demitted, one; died three; non-affiliates, twenty-seven; whole number seventy-five. In fraternal dead we note William B. Griffin, L. McCullen and Chauncey Gray.

1892

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us at the Grand Lodge. He was also appointed on the committee on "Charters and Dispensations". There was nothing of further importance to us. The new names reported were: H. C. Harrison, John Simkins, John O. Hawkins, W. T. Daughety, Levy G. Ferrell, W. S. Fields, Jesse H. Hill, F. C. Loops, W. E. Mewborn. Initiated, passed and raised, one; reinstated, two; non-affiliates, twenty-six; whole number, eighty.

1893

Brother S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us in the Grand Lodge. There was nothing of importance to St. John's this year and we were not honored with an office in the Grand Lodge. Initiated five, passed five, raised four, admitted one, demitted two, died three, rejected five, non-affiliates twenty-six; whole number eighty. We note in fraternal dead, Joseph S. Cummings, Joseph W. Ballard, William Henry West.

1894

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us this year in the Grand Lodge. He was also appointed on the committee on "Jurisdictions". There was nothing of further importance to St. John's this year. Initiated two, passed two, raised two, admitted two, excluded three, died one, rejected three, non-affiliates thirty-one, whole number eighty-six. In the fraternal dead we note Brother Thomas A. Heath.

1895

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us this year in the Grand Lodge. The Oxford Orphan Asylum was incorporated at a special communication of the Grand Lodge held on December 5th, 1895 at which he also represented us. On February 28th of this year the terrible fire which destroyed Kinston occurred, and in which St. John's Lodge was so unfortunate as to lose all of her old records, books, jewels, furniture and everything. The Lodge met in the Abbott building on the third floor and as the flames reached from one side of the street to the other and it was impossible to save anything though several made the attempt. Everything was in gloom and desolation here at that time but on March 13th St. John's Lodge met at her regular time and the members voluntarily agreed to donate funds sufficient to partly equip the Lodge again. Our old charter was burned but in the meantime Brother S. H. Rountree had written for and received a dispensation to proceed with the work and in due time a duplicate charter would be issued. The charter was issued and is in our Lodge Hall now by the side of the old original charter which was restored to us by the Grand Lodge with our Number 4 later. On this same day March 13th, 1895 the Lodge balloted on a petition and rejected the applicant and also postponed another. The same old indomitable spirit was existing that has brought St. John's through the ages and still exists. The Lodge continued to hold meetings regularly through the year and did much work as well as exemplifying the degree work and raising candidates. On October 1895, Brother J. T. Ball having rebuilt his brick stores the Lodge rented a hall from him and in which they met regularly until 1904 when we moved to our present handsome quarters. There were initiated seven, passed seven, raised six, non-affiliated twenty-two, whole number eighty-eight.

The names reported are: E. W. Bizzell, A. S. Patrick, W. F. Parker, W. R. Hicks, H. C. Bailey, Clem Bailey, Everett Brinson, J. T. Cockrell, A. Edwards, J. H. Ellis, C. H. Foy, R. H. Lewis, G. W. Richardson, W. R. Rountree, Abe Schultz, F. R. Smith, J. D. Sutton, T. G. Sutton, Wright Saunders, E. A. Simkins.

1896

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Warden represented us at the Grand Lodge this year. He was also appointed on the committee on "Foreign Correspondence" and also on the committee on the Grand Masters Address. The Grand Lodge changed its By-Laws this year as regards the Custodians of the Work and there is in our records a resolution in

favor of the change. There is also a resolution as regards the term of office of the Grand Master and Grand Wardens which our Lodge voted for. There were initiated, passed and raised three, admitted two, reinstated one, dimitted two, rejected five, died two, non-affiliated twenty-five, whole number ninety-five. We note in the fraternal dead A. W. Taylor, R. F. Hill.

1897

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us in the Grand Lodge this year. He was also appointed on the committee on "Charters and Dispensations". Later in the session he was appointed on the standing committee on "Foreign Correspondence". This year Kinston Lodge No. 316, was reorganized. The new names reported this year are: H. D. Harper, Sr., who died in 1906 a most worthy and beloved member of our Lodge. He was an enthusiastic and earnest member and loved Masonry well and he has often sacrificed his time, money and talents for the Lodge. He never failed to answer to the call of the Lodge and we shall miss him greatly; his wise counsel, pleasing personality and presence and activity in our work. There were also Jesse T. Heath, John H. Moore, Wm. F. Moore, Nathan M. Perry. There were initiated one, passed one, raised one, admitted one, suspended one, excluded one, dimitted one, died two, rejected one, non-affiliated twenty-seven, whole number ninety-three. In the fraternal dead we note D. E. Perry, G. W. Richardson.

1898

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us in the Grand Lodge. He made a report for the committee on "Foreign Correspondence". He represented St. John's Lodge at a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge as Grand Junior Warden on St. John's Day, June 28th, 1898 at Oxford.

S. H. Rountree was reappointed on the committee on "Foreign Correspondence". Kinston Lodge was granted a duplicate charter this year. There were initiated four, passed five, raised five, dimitted two, died five, rejected three, non-affiliated eighteen, whole number eighty-five. We note in the fraternal dead J. D. Sutton, C. L. Davis, John Simkins, W. T. Daughety, W. W. N. Hunter.

1899

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us in the Grand Lodge. There are three pages of our Lodge minutes devoted to the question of Lady Supervisor at the Orphan Asylum. Brother S. H. Rountree was appointed as a special representative of this Lodge to the Special Communication of the Grand Lodge to be held at Oxford June 24th, 1899 and instructed him to vote to retain the lady supervisor. There were initiated three, passed three, raised two, stopped one, excluded two, died four. The new names noted are: R. B. Dunn, H. H. Grainger, J. V. Carter, Plato Collins, T. H. Faulkner. In the fraternal dead we note D. J. Long.

1900

Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree and R. B. Dunn represented us in the Grand Lodge this year. There was nothing of importance to St. John this year. The Lodge voted a sum to the Galveston flood sufferers and also \$46.00 as a Thanksgiving offering to the orphans. The new names noted are: T. B. Carney, Fremman R. Smith. There were initiated two, passed three, raised one, suspended two, died three, non-affiliated twenty, whole number seventy-one.

1901

Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree and R. B. Dunn represented us in the Grand Lodge. Brother S. H. Rountree was appointed on the committee on "Charters and Dispensations". There was nothing further of importance to us this year. The new names noted are: E. W. Chadwick, F. N. Hawkins, W. T. Parrott, F. C. Loops. There were initiated ten, passed seven, raised six, admitted one, suspended two, excluded one, dimitted three, died two, non-affiliated, twenty-one, whole number sixty-nine. We note in the fraternal dead Benjamin Sutton, Jas. B. Webb.

1902

S. H. Rountree, Past Grand Junior Warden represented us in the Grand Lodge as also did C. L. Pridgen, R. B. Dunn and Albert Moore. There is an interesting paper in this years proceedings, as regards the first Lodge in Pitt County. At Crown Point, on a road fifteen miles from Greenville, between Newbern and Greenville. It is by Hon. Francis D. Winston and refers to the earliest traditions of Masonry in North Carolina. Brother S. H. Rountree was appointed on the committee on "Charters and Dispensations". The proceedings are full of interest but of no importance to St. John's history. Brother C. L. Pridgen was appointed a committee by the Lodge to raise a Regalia Fund, this year and our present handsome furniture, fixtures and regalia is the result of this committee's work. Brother C. L. Pridgen was also appointed a committee this year to get our original charter and number restored. The result will be explained under the year 1903. The union of Kinston Lodge No. 316 and St. John's Lodge No. 4 was first proposed this year. We labored faithfully for its consummation but to no avail. The committee was appointed July 23rd, 1902. The papers of the committee and the reply of Kinston Lodge No. 316 may be seen on the records. Our Lodge first began to have its annual public celebration this year. Its officers were publicly installed by Grand Lecturer B. W. Hatcher together with Lenoir No. 233 of La Grange and Kinston No. 316. State Auditor B. F. Dixon, was the orator of the day and delivered a beautiful address to a select audience in the Court House. Brother Y. T. Ormond of Kinston Lodge No. 316, then presented to Past Master S. H. Rountree a beautiful Past Masters jewel and badge, on behalf of the brethren of St. John's Lodge No. 4, in token of their love and high appreciation of his long and faithful services. This jewel, badge and his Masonic collar I placed on Brother Rountree at his request, when we gently bore his body away and placed it beneath the silent clods of the valley.

There was a barbecue dinner this year and the day was much enjoyed by all. It was a fore-runner of the big annual celebration which we have now. On January 8th, 1902, the Lodge changed its By-Laws providing for night meetings (they had been meeting in the day). In many ways too numerous to mention here the Lodge began to show a better, healthier spirit and St. John's began to climb to the high position it now occupies. Pardon me, please, for mentioning this fact but it is a part of the Lodge history and of which I am justly proud. I petitioned the Lodge on April 23rd, 1902 and was elected on May 28th, 1902 and was initiated the same night by Brother S. H. Rountree who was the Worshipful Master at that time. He conferred all the degrees on me as the Master and raised me to the sublime degree of Master Mason in his impressive way. The Lodge held their annual election the next meeting after I was raised and on account of his feebleness and ill health he retired from office and Brother R. B. Dunn, his nephew, was elected Master. Thus I was the last candidate of the many that Brother Rountree ever raised. He did not hold office again on account of his health but he attended Lodge as often as he could and enjoyed the work though he protested often that changes were being made in the old Stevenson work which he received from Stevenson himself. He often tried to catch me off my guard, to impress some teaching on my mind and he took great interest in trying to get me not only proficient in the work but in the traditions and history of the Lodge as well. I well remember the night I was raised that in the open Lodge he suddenly turned to me as I was crossing the room and asked "Brother Pridgen tell me where you were recorded a Fellow-Craft". You can imagine his delight and merriment when I unthoughtedly, or rather unwittingly answered: "in the Secretary's book Worshipful. Peace to his ashes.

There were initiated eleven, passed nine, raised twelve, excluded one, died one, non-affiliated six, whole number sixty-six. The following new names were reported this year: C. L. Pridgen, C. D. Moore, E. R. Ford, G. V. Richardson, F. R. Foy, E. M. Oettinger, J. B. Temple, H. H. Hodges, K. Denmark, Geo. J. Kautz, J. J. Moore. In the fraternal dead we note Brother F. C. Loops.

1903

S. H. Rountree, P. G. J. W. represented us at the Grand Lodge this year, as also did Brothers C. L. Pridgen and R. B. Dunn.

Brother Rountree was appointed on the committee on Charters and Dispensations No. 2. Brothers S. H. Rountree, P. G. Master and John Nichols introduced a resolution in the Grand Lodge this year to appoint three Grand Custodians of the work, to decide as to the true Stevenson work, make any necessary corrections, license Lecturers to teach the work. They to hold office for three years each, one term of office expiring each year. That the work so decided upon be hereafter kept and taught to the Craft. This was adopted and is the system we now work under.

The Masonic Temple Committee made a full report and they were continued with the instructions to proceed to get subscriptions and build the Temple.

The By-Laws of the Grand Lodge were amended through a resolution by P. G. Master John Cotton, not to allow non-affiliated masons to visit a Lodge even one time.

The most important thing to St. John's this year was the procuring of our old original number and Charter. The facts as to this will be given below in a short and hasty manner as time and space forbid us to enlarge upon it as we would really like to do.

You will remember that St. John's Lodge became dormant in 1849, was revived under Dispensation in 1850, was re-chartered in 1851 and through mistake given the number 96. In 1853 Chalmers Lodge, of Evans Mill, Moore County, N. C. was organized and Chartered and given the number 4, but should have been given number 151 as will be explained later. Alfred Martin was then Grand Master. William Sutton was the representative of St. John's No. 96 this year, but he retired before this came up in the Grand Lodge and appointed a proxy. Time passed and no one seemed to take up the matter in the Grand Lodge and it was forgotten. New Lodges just organized were given the numbers of dormant lodges, numbers 5 and 6 being also filled in this way. On December 3rd, 1854, Phoenix Lodge No. 8, of Charlotte presented a lengthy resolution to the Grand Lodge setting forth these facts and praying the Grand Lodge not to allow young lodges just organized to outrank her in number.

The resolution was adopted on December 4th, 1854. Brother H. B. Short for the committee to whom it was referred, reporting that they found that Chalmers Lodge was chartered the previous year (1853) and given number 4, a number which had become dormant and that dormant lodge was now revived. Also that similar circumstances existed as regards No. 5, No. 6 and other numbers. They recommended a revision of these numbers in justice to the old lodges who had the misfortune to become dormant for awhile and were later revived and also to the older lodges not dormant, they being thus outranked by newly organized lodges. After the adoption of this report by the Grand Lodge the number 4 was taken from Chalmers lodge and it was given No. 151 its proper number and the other numbers were also rearranged, but by some oversight, or either our representative not being present at that hour, No. 4 was not restored to St. John's and the matter passed along unattended to.

On December 3rd, 1855, Brother Garden offered a resolution in the Grand Lodge to this effect; "That all Lodges hereafter chartered shall be numbered, according to the date of their Charter and that in the future, numbers rendered blank by the death of lodges shall not be filled." This was adopted by the Grand Lodge and has been in existence ever since. In 1902 soon after I came into Masonry, Brother S. H. Rountree in relating the old traditions and history of our lodge,

told me that we were rightfully entitled to No. 4. Becoming more interested, I began to make an historical search and brought the matter before the lodge.

They appointed me as a committee to investigate the matter thoroughly and act accordingly. With the data obtained from Brother S. H. Rountree and that gained from the Grand Lodge archives, I felt that all we had to do was to acquaint the Grand Lodge with the oversight and present the facts from its own records, to gain our old prestige. Consequently as a representative from the lodge I appeared before the Grand Lodge on January 13th, 1903, just fifty years later, and presented the following prayer to that body, which is of record:

"To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Wardens and Brethren of the Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, At its Annual Communication, at Raleigh, on the 13th day of January, 1903.

We the members of St. John's Lodge, now numbered 96, in regular communication assembled, do most respectfully pray this Grand Body to restore unto us, the Charter, etc. of St. John's Lodge No. 4 of Kinston, N. C.

Masonry had been established in Kinston before the formation of this grand body in 1787, and held its original Charter from England. The proceedings which accompany this resolution, show that we were of the number who helped to form the Grand Lodge, surrendering the Charter we held from England and taking a Charter from this Grand Body. We remember with great pride that P. G. Master Richard Caswell was a Master of our Lodge. A Masonic monument now stands in Kinston, to his memory, almost before our lodge door. We are also proud of the fact that for 28 years we gave to this Grand Body their Grand Lecturer and for 8 years the Grand Custodian of their work. That same member and Brother has represented our lodge here for over 50 years and he is present here today, his heart still full of love for Masonry. Most all of the old Brothers have passed to their rest; some few remain and St. John's still lives and is growing stronger and stronger each day, and will in the very near future be the strongest of Fraternal Orders in ours, a very strong Lodge Town. There are many deeds and records and many sentiments that cluster around the past of old St. John's No. 4, and these sentiments will be for the best interest of Masonry in general. We wish to revive the original charter and number of this old lodge which stands in the very shadow of the tomb of its once loved Master, Richard Caswell. We therefore pray you that the original charter and number of old St. John's No. 4 be restored unto us, believing that it will make better Masons of us and will be of the greatest service to Masonry in general and more especially in our own community. We would ask that our present officers be held as the officers of St. John's No. 4, until next June, and if this our prayer be granted, we shall press forward in the cause until St. John's shall be a mark of pride to the general Fraternity. Respectfully Submitted."

There was some little opposition but without any real grounds. I shall never forget how earnestly we appealed to the Grand Master and

the Brethren, to right their oversight and help us in restoring our number and charter. They finally submitted it to the committee on Charters and Dispensations No. 1, composed of B. W. Hatcher, J. B. Griggs, and T. R. Christman. We had some hard work before the committee in showing them our data, etc., but our papers were indisputable and the committee reported, that after examining our records and papers, etc., and finding the precedent in the Grand Lodge records and further believing that it would be a great stimulus to Masonry in our community and the Order in general, they would recommend that our original No. 4, and Charter, bearing date of 1787 be restored to us. This was unanimously adopted by the Grand Lodge. Brethren you will never know the full joy that vote gave to us, who had labored for it so long and earnestly. Thus was St. John's restored to her former glory and her rightful station and we do hope Brethren, that she may ever keep it in honor of her first recorded Master. May this record be of service in future years to assist her in so doing, and we will have been well paid for all our labors. The annual Celebration this year was largely attended and was a great success. Col. A. C. Davis was the Orator of the day. There were 34 lodges represented, about 800 Master Masons. The public address was delivered in the Court House to a large and select audience of prominent ladies and gentlemen of the community. Nine lodges had their officers publicly installed by D. G. Master, W. S. Liddell. P. G. Master, John Nichols, on behalf of St. John's Lodge No. 4, in a beautiful speech presented to P. M., R. B. Dunn a handsome Past Masters jewel as a token of their esteem and for his valuable services. A big barbecue dinner was served in the farmers warehouse, which was enjoyed by all. The officers of the Grand Lodge recommended that this meeting be made an annual event and a regular, special meeting of the Grand Lodge each year. This suggestion, as you know, has so far been carried out and we hope it will long continued. This year there were initiated, 11; passed, 9; raised, 12; died, 1; the whole number being 68. J. W. Black was Master.

1904.

Brother C. L. Pridgen, L. H. Black and J. T. Heath represented us this year in the Grand Lodge. Brother S. H. Rountree was absent on account of sickness. Brother C. L. Pridgen represented us at the special communication of the Grand Lodge at Oxford. We were not honored by an office in the Grand Lodge this year. Brother C. L. Pridgen was appointed a special committee to get pictures of all the Past Masters and have them framed and hung in the Lodge; he was also appointed a committee to get up our annual celebration and public installation of officers. The Grand Lodge held a special communication here on June 29th, 1904. Grand Master W. S. Liddell and the Deputy Grand Master were present and there was a great croud of Masons even larger than in 1903. There were a large number of Lodges represented. Deputy Grand Master F. D. Winston was the orator and the court house was crowded with select audience. The officers of the several Lodges were then installed. Brother C. L. Pridgen

had the honor to be the installed Worshipful Master of St. John's No. 4. A big dinner was served and the day was a big success. On June 29, 1904, St. John's Lodge met for degree work and had the great honor of a special official visit from the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Tyler, who praised the team very highly on their work. The resolution of the Grand Lodge as to the eligibility of Liquor dealers, declaring them eligible, was ratified by our Lodge August 10th, 1904. This year we appointed a committee to build a temple. Twenty thousand dollars of stock was subscribed but we found that our financial condition was such that we could not accomplish it; consequently the Lodge rented the Granger building and had it arranged for their convenience where they are still comfortably and handsomely situated. This year Old Caswell Chapter No. 38 was reorganized and met in our hall. A fact well worthy of note is that our Lodge paid out for charity this year two hundred and fifty-nine dollars and fifty-six cents. The following new names were reported: V. A. Abbot, S. R. Dunn, H. T. Ogelsby, Horace West, C. H. Pool, J. M. Parrott, J. W. Dixon, J. M. P. Joyner, Robert Stroud, L. A. Mewborn, Theo Kemnitz, L. R. Maxwell, W. J. Pope, H. H. McCoy. There were initiated six, passed nine, raised ten, admitted four, demitted one, died four, non-affiliated five, whole number eighty, a gain of 14. We note in fraternal dead: K. W. Whitfield, J. T. Ball, J. T. Askew and L. A. Mewborn.

1905.

Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree was sent to the Grand Lodge this year by St. John's and Secretary S. R. Dunn was sent to accompany him. C. L. Pridgen, R. B. Dunn and S. R. Dunn were our representatives this year. Brother S. H. Rountree was appointed on the committee on "Charters and Dispensations". The Grand Master in his address refers to the Grand Lodge meeting at Kinston as an established annual event. The Grand Lodge changed its By-Laws as regards sending a summons for the non-payment of dues and the law for exclusion was thus originated. The change in wearing the apron as Master Masons and Fellow Crafts was passed this year that is, it was ordered worn as it was before 1892 when it was changed. Brother C. L. Pridgen represented us at a meeting of the Grand Lodge held at Oxford, N. C., on June 14th, 1905. Masonry in Kinston was united and its great benevolent work greatly assisted by the consolidation of Kinston Lodge No. 316 with St. John's No. 4 all misunderstandings and differences were settled and Masonry as someone expressed it, had a big washday and put on clean white linen. Brother F. C. Dunn and C. L. Pridgen with others, had worked incessantly and cheerfully as a committee from St. John's No. 4 for several years to accomplish this and the result was very gratifying indeed. This year the Lodge honored Brother C. L. Pridgen by re-electing him as Worshipful Master as well as all of the faithful elective officers of the Lodge. Worshipful Master Pridgen in view of the same facts re-appointed all the old appointive officers to their same places. I suppose this must have been the first time in its history that not a change was made in its officers by the Lodge. There was another big public celebration this year and the

Masons were here in great numbers with their wives and children. The Grand Lodge opened in Special communication in the Knights of Harmony hall, (Whitaker Building) the Grand Senior Warden being present and who was orator of the day R. W. Brother R. N. Hackett. The court house was packed with a most select audience and there were held spell bound by the oratory of this illustrious Brother. The big dinner was served and there was sunshine everywhere. Past Grand Master John Nichols was present though he insisted it was time that he was "Oslerized" but we felt it would not be our big annual event should he be absent. St. John's Lodge paid out for charity this year three hundred dollars and forty-four cents. Grand Secretary John C. Drewry sent the Lodge a special letter of congratulation on its growth in membership and business. There were initiated: fourteen, passed seven, raised five, admitted twenty-nine, reinstated two, excluded five, dimitted one, died three, rejected three, non-affiliated, ten, whole number one hundred and eighteen. In the fraternal dead we note E. H. Dill, W. C. Swift, Jerry Waters. The new names noted are: J. L. Albertson, Benj. P. Ball, U. R. Baker, J. L. Barfield, John G. Cox, Jr., Jos. H. Darden, T. H. Faulkner, J. W. Grainger, John Griffith, Jr., Amos Harvey, L. Harvey, Chas F. Harvey, C. Felix Harvey, J. M. Hines, O. D. Jobson, R. S. Jobson, R. H. Lewis, J. F. Marquett, J. L. Mewborne, D. Oettinger, A. Oettinger, Y. T. Ormond, A. D. Parrott, W. D. Pollock, Raymond Pollock, C. A. Quinn, N. S. Richardson, J. L. Sutton, Henry Tull, Geo. B. Webb, R. B. West, L. H. Whitehead, J. M. White, C. B. Woodley. Quite a nice membership for old St. John's and composed of the best business and professional men of this community. There is a good moral tone in the Lodge and a good underlying spirit which means success.

1906.

C. L. Pridgen, R. B. Dunn and E. R. Ford represented us in the Grand Lodge this year. It was ordered by the Lodge that Secretary S. R. Dunn accompany Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree to the Grand Lodge but owing to feebleness and ill health he was unable to attend. Brother C. L. Pridgen was appointed on the committee on the Grand Masters Address. He was also appointed on a committee (special) to consider the advisability of creating the office of District Deputy Grand Master and report. The report was adopted creating the office and may be seen in the records. Brother Pridgen was appointed on the committee on "Charters and Dispensations", he was also appointed on another very important committee, that of "Masonic Jurisprudence". The Grand Lodge adopted their report on "Conditional Dimits" for the purpose of preventing so many non-affiliated masons and it is now a law. Brother Pridgen was appointed a teller in the election for Grand Officers. The Grand Officers appointed Brother C. L. Pridgen Deputy Grand Master of the 5th District comprising Lenoir, Pitt and Green Counties.

St. John's Lodge ordered that it would take \$300.00 of the Grand Lodge Temple stock at Raleigh. Nearly all the Brethren signed a card also, agreeing to pay \$2.00 per year for five years in addition to

the lodge's stock. The services of the Grand Lecturer were engaged to train a team this year but he being sick J. W. Rowell, Asst. Grand Lecturer came in his place. Brother C. L. Pridgen was again honored by re-election to the office of Worshipful Master. Deputy Grand Master C. L. Pridgen ordered a District meeting to be held in St. John's Hall on June 26th, 1906 and it was packed with Masons from all over the district. St. John's team exemplified the work before the Custodians and they received many compliments. A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge was held in Loftin's Opera House with Grand Master Winston presiding, and a number of other Grand Officers present. There were an immense crowd of masons here that day. After its usual exercises the Grand Lodge formed procession with the Second Regiment band, Goldsboro Rifles and Kinston Rifles leading and moved to the Robert Bruce McDaniel Memorial Hospital where the Grand Officers several Past Grand Masters and other distinguished members of the Grand Lodge, laid the corner stone of the Hospital DEDICATED TO CHARITY. A platform had been erected for the Grand Officers and speakers and the soldiers surrounded the stand, the Second Regiment band discoursing sweet music at intervals. There was an immense throng assembled. Mayor N. J. Rouse, made the address of welcome for the City and Lieutenant Governor F. D. Winston the Grand Master, responded on behalf of the Grand Lodge in his usual happy way, with many flattering words. The Charity Department of the Hospital was then turned over formally to the Lady Board of Managers, the public park was also formally presented to the City. Deputy Grand Master C. L. Pridgen then introduced the orator of the day Governor R. B. Glenn, who held his vast audience spell bound in spite of the intense heat, with an eloquent and learned address. It was indeed a magnificent oration. The crowd then moved to Knott Bros. warehouse where the multitude were fed sumptuously and all retired with plenty. Then there were carriage drives and other forms of entertainment. The clubs of the city entertained the many guests magnificently and every citizen did his part and made the day a Red Letter day in the history of Kinston as well as of St. John's Lodge No. 4. Enoch Council No. 5 met in the evening of the 27th and conferred the degrees on a number of candidates. This year it seems St. Johns has had all the honor it could ask. I should add here that Past Grand Master John Nichols was among the Grand Officers present in spite of Osler.

On Wednesday morning at 3:25 o'clock, September 12th, 1906, St. John's Lodge No. 4 and the Masonic world sustained a severe loss. Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree finished his earthly temple and submitted it to the Great Overseer's square. His life for fifty-four years was one of continuous service to Masonry. He was present at every meeting of the Grand Lodge and Blue Lodge and this history of old St. John's since 1852, is practically a history of his life. A living monument to his memory. As I sit here in the Lodge room compiling these notes I glance up at his portrait placed there on the wall and I remember his last words. He had finished the arrangement of his other affairs and only masonry troubled his mind. He hated to give



SAMUEL H. ROUNTREE

that up. Finally he commended his soul to the God who gave it, the God of the masons and with a long, deep sigh he exclaimed: "I shall leave that with Dr. Pridgen and S. R. Dunn" and he passed into unconsciousness. The portrait seems to smile encouragement as I sit here alone and labor over these dusty records. I drop my pen and gazing at the strong but kindly features of my once dear friend, I think of the labor he has left me, of the long years of duty and self sacrifice, of patience and forbearance. I think of the struggles it will take, as a leader of the Craft, to walk uprightly, live squarely and set the proper example for my Craft that he has set for me and I bow my head in submission to the task but I realize so fully how incompetent I am to fulfill it and I pray, that when the working tools of life drop forever from my nerveless grasp and my body shall have been placed with the pure white lambskin apron beneath the silent clods of the valley and my soul shall have left this earthly temple and stand trembling, naked and alone before the Great White Throne, that I may hear the welcome words of the Supreme Architect and that my old friend there will be a witness for me before the Judge Supreme, that I labored earnestly in the great work, I fought diligently the great fight and that I have done the best that I could. It will always be a great pleasure for me to remember that I was the last candidate he ever raised as Worshipful Master of St. John's No. 4 and was ever ready to aid and assist me in the work from which he was retiring. I shall never forget the times he used to call at my office and correct my errors in the work and sit and tell me the old forgotten history and traditions of the Lodge he loved so well. Farewell great spirit, noble friend, earnest teacher of our great principles you have earned your rest and no man dares to disturb it. May the Supreme Architect of the Universe reward you in the Glorious Temple of the Grand Lodge above for your work in the Temple here below. St. Johns shall keep your memory ever bright before her and transmit your record faithfully with our teachings to her future sons. Again farewell! my brother and my friend, we leave you in the hands of Him who doeth all things well.

This year also passed to the great beyond Brother Amos Harvey, who died November 15th, 1906. He was a member in good standing for sixty-eight years, and while he was not active in the work as was Brother Rountree, yet he rallied to the call of the lodge on every occasion. He was a noble spirit and an honest man and upright mason. What more my brothers could be said of any man? We laid him to rest at the close of his eighty-ninth year with the honors of masonry, and commend his soul to the Great I. AM.

Brother Lewis Kilpatrick of Rountree Lodge passed away this year also, on November 17th, 1906. He joined Saint John's Lodge at the same time as Brother Rountree in 1852, and was a constant and enthusiastic member of the Lodge for many years. He demitted later and became a charter member of Rountree Lodge No. 233 of Bethel, near Grifton, N. C., which Lodge laid him to rest with masonic honors. Thus the three grand old masons have departed for the foreign country to receive masters wages, and left us a rich legacy in the Lodges they

made so successful. There were initiated sixteen, passed eighteen, raised twenty, admitted three, died three, non-affiliated seven, rejected six, whole number one hundred and forty-one. We note in the fraternal dead: S. H. Rountree, Sr., H. C. Harrison, W. B. Huff, Amos Harvey and H. D. Harper, Sr.

List of Officers and Members October 31st, 1906.

W. M., C. L. Pridgen	Treas., J. B. Temple	J. D., R. L. Hill
S. W., S. R. Dunn	Sect., O. T. Boney	Stew., C. J. Pittman
J. W., L. G. Ferrell	S. D., J. M. P. Joyner	Stew., O. D. Jobson
	Tyler, H. C. Bailey	

V. A. Abbott, C. H. Alber, J. L. Albertson, Clem Bailey, B. P. Ball, U. R. Baker, J. L. Barfield, E. W. Bizzell, J. W. Black, R. E. Bland, Everett Brinson, J. A. Broadhurst, Herman Bryan, E. W. Chadwick, Plato Collins, J. B. Cummings, H. W. Cummings, Jno. G. Cox, J. H. Darden, A. F. Daughety, Jno. G. Dawson, Kleber Denmark, J. W. Dixon, W. W. Dunn, R. B. Dunn, F. C. Dunn, H. C. Edwards, J. H. Ellis, T. H. Faulkner, W. S. Fields, E. R. Ford, H. P. Fort, F. R. Foy, C. H. Foy, L. R. George, J. D. Grady, J. W. Grainger, H. H. Grainger, Jno. Griffith, Jr., H. D. Harper, Sr., H. D. Harper, Jr., Amos Harvey, L. Harvey, Chas F. Harvey C. Felix Harvey, J. O. Hawkins, J. T. Heath, Jesse Heath, J. H. Hill, Floyd Hill, J. M. Hines, H. H. Hodges, G. H. Hodges, R. G. Hodges, W. L. Holderby, R. S. Jobson, R. L. Jobson, B. F. Jones, S. C. Kennedy, Geo. Kautz, T. B. Koonce, R. H. Lewis, E. B. Lewis, J. P. Marquette, L. R. Maxwell, J. A. McDaniel, W. E. Mewborn, L. J. Mewborn, J. H. Mitchell, W. A. Mitchell, J. H. Moore W. E. Moore, J. J. Moore, Clay Moore, A. H. Moore, H. H. McCoy, D. Oettinger, A. Oettinger, E. M. Oettinger, H. T. Oglesby, Y. T. Ormond, A. S. Padrick, A. D. Parrott, J. M. Parrott, W. T. Parrott, C. H. Pool, W. D. Pollock, Raymond Pollock, W. J. Pope, R. W. Pope, C. W. Pridgen, C. A. Quinn, G. V. Richardson, N. S. Richardson, R. H. Rountree, W. R. Rountree, R. R. Rouse, Abe Schultz, E. A. Simkins, J. L. Stroud, J. F. Stricklin, H. J. Sumrell, J. L. Sutton, A. J. Sutton, B. R. Taylor, W. G. Taylor, Henry Tull, S. S. Tyndal, W. M. Tyndal, J. E. Waters, G. B. Webb, Horace West, R. B. West, L. H. Whitehead, J. M. White, J. B. Williams, C. B. Woodley, T. M. Wooten.

1907.

Brethren, my labor is completed. Had I known what a task it would be I would have never have undertaken it, but now that it is finished I think it was worth the effort. It is too great a task to revise it, so I offer it to you in this crude state conscious of its short comings and its numerous errors, believing that its substance will make up for its crude form and deficiencies. It is a history of which we may all be justly proud and which I think will be appreciated and preserved by every member of the craft.

The officers of our lodge from 1787 to 1907 hereto attached in proper form year by year, and is a valuable relic. I wish to thank Brother S. R. Dunn, S. W., and Past Secretary for his assistance in getting this data in shape; Brother J. G. Dawson and W. S. Greer for their services in the

slow and tedious typewriting of this manuscript. Worshipful Brother Jas. Hughan, Grand Historian of England, and David Reid, Grand Historian of Scotland, for their kindness in furnishing data. Also R. W., Brother Jno. C. Drewry, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of N. C. for his kindness in allowing us to have and copy the old records in his keeping, and every other one who has rendered assistance in any way in this great task. In closing I wish to say, Brethren, that I am deeply thankful for the many honors you have given me, and I am justly proud that I now hold the chair and office the immortal Caswells, Brights, Davenports and other great men of the ancient craft. It is enough honor for any man to occupy the positions of Worshipful Master of old St. John's Lodge No. 4, a Lodge clothed with so great a history. I have tried to serve you faithfully and at your request on my elevation to this station I retained my appointment on the committees of history, by-laws, charter, regalia, pictures, etc. I herewith present you my humble efforts as the committee on by-laws and history with your officers up to date. The charter and number hangs upon your wall there just as in the days of yore, and now having discharged my duty as faithfully and fully as my ability would permit I lay aside my pen and humbly ask to be discharged.

This year is now current and the proceedings are not yet out, but I will give a partial report so that they may also be preserved for the future. You will be able to read the report in full, later for yourselves.

D. D. G. Master C. L. Pridgen and J. T. Heath represented us at the Grand Lodge this year. Brother Pridgen was appointed on the committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. In the reports of D. D. G. Masters. Ours the 5th District led the State by far. Our D. D. G. Master having secured \$2,013.00 in cards for the Temple fund. We were also reported the best in the work and other particulars. Brother Pridgen was re-appointed the D. D. G. Master of this the 5th District. He also assisted the Grand Custodians in exemplifying the work before the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge ordered the Temple Committee to proceed with the erection of the Temple at once. The change in laws were few and will be seen in the proceedings later. There was nothing further of importance to St. Johns. Locally there have been quite a number of candidates raised, and quite a number of petitions sent into the lodge. There has been a greater interest than ever shown in the work and in the general business of the lodge. There has been a great deal of charity work done, the regalia fund will have been raised before this is in print and St. John's will then be fully equipped with every thing she needs or desires. There is not one penny of debt on the lodge and on the other hand we have a surplus in the treasury. We could not ask to be more blessed than we are and I know each member is duly grateful and pardonably proud of this record. The Chapter has been equally progressive and there have been organized here this year a Council and a Commandery both of which are doing as well as they possible could. This means that Masonry is moving upward and forward and that the future is even brighter than the past. We earnestly hope that nothing can occur ever again to dim the bright star of masonry in this community.

*Addendum to "History of St. John's Lodge", compiled from the
lodge records by William B. Ward, Secretary, 1924.*

1908

Brother S. R. Dunn was Master; J. T. Jarman, Secretary and Claud L. Pridgen, District Deputy Grand Master.

This lodge participated in the laying of the corner stone of the Masonic Temple at Raleigh. The following were raised during the year: W. M. Sitterson, Carlisle Heath and J. M. Quinn. Brothers J. E. Hart and A. L. Harrington were received on dimit. Brother Herman Bryan died.

The Grand Lodge honored St. John's lodge this year by appointing Brother C. L. Pridgen, Grand Marshal.

1909

Brother S. R. Dunn was re-elected Master and Brother W. M. Sitterson Secretary.

Brother C. L. Pridgen, District Deputy Grand Master, paid the lodge an official visit and was the principal speaker at a banquet given in his honor at the Court House.

Floyd Swift, Richard W. Fowler, W. G. Grady, H. Stadiem and Seth D. Ford were raised; R. L. Blow and W. S. Greer were admitted; Capt. J. M. White died and G. J. Kautz withdrew from membership.

1910

Brother O. D. Jobson was elected Master and L. R. George, Secretary.

The lodge had quite an influx of new life this year, eight being raised as follows: Grover B. Cox, Raymond M. Brown, Joseph S. May, D. E. Wood, W. T. Hooker, Fred I. Sutton, C. W. Hartsfield and Leon Oettinger.

Brothers E. B. Marston, Hyman E. Rice and L. A. Cobb were admitted; W. S. Fields, Abe Oettinger and Jesse W. Grainger, died; and F. J. Ragland and Sydney Kennedy withdrew.

1911

Brother C. W. Pridgen was elected Master and W. M. Hooker, Secretary.

The membership continued to grow, there being ten raised as follows: Carl M. Beasley, W. L. Goodson, W. M. Hooker, J. W. Lane, Eli Nachamson, J. N. Parham, Clessen H. Smith, B. W. Spilman, Ben. Williams and Leslie D. Worthington. Brother C. A. Upchurch, and J. H. Kornegay were admitted; R. L. Jobson, J. T. Jarman, John Marquette, C. A. Quinn and S. S. Tyndall withdrew and Brother Jas. M. Hines died. Two were excluded.

1912

Brother C. W. Pridgen was re-elected Master and Fred I. Sutton was elected Secretary.

Seven were raised this year: Floyd D. Kennedy, Chas Bagby, Robert I. Sutton, Jr., R. B. Jones, Harry Stein, G. V. Cowper and L. T. Kornegay. Brother F. S. Love was admitted.

Brothers L. Harvey, S. W. Isler and R. W. Pope, died; Hugh Tunstall, W. S. Greer and Raymond Pollock, withdrew; John G. Cox was reinstated and two were excluded.

Rather an unusual communication was held during this year. The lodge opened on November the eleventh, held day and night sessions and closed on the sixteenth, having remained open for six days. Most of the degree work for the year was done at this communication with Grand Lecturer, R. F. Edwards in the chair.

The Grand Lodge held a special communication in Kinston this year, the occasion being the laying of the corner stone of the School for the Feeble Minded (Caswell Training School).

There were on the roll of the lodge at this time one hundred and sixty-four members.

1913

Brother Jas. D. Grady was Master this year and L. R. George, Secretary.

Nine new members were raised as follows: H. E. Shaw, R. E. Cox, W. H. Caton, J. Frank LaRoque, E. V. Webb, D. J. Ward, G. G. Moore, A. Clyde Bizzell and Jacob Naiman. Five were admitted: C. R. Styron, Rev. C. W. Blanchard, Richard Stroud, L. N. Williams and Jno. F. Marquette. J. O. Hawkins was re-instated while C. R. Styron, H. T. Oglesby and J. B. Temple withdrew. Brother W. Carlisle Heath, died.

1914

Brother W. G. Grady was Master and L. R. George re-elected Secretary.

Six were raised as follows: S. J. Hawes, S. R. Sanders, A. L. Pearson, Sam F. Linton, W. F. Wooten and E. B. Toppin. Brother W. J. Richardson was admitted. One excluded and Jno. G. Cox and C. W. Blanchard, withdrew. Four died as follows: J. W. Lane, Edward W. Chadwick, George B. Webb and A. S. Padrick.

1915

J. E. Williams was elected Master and Richard L. Patrick was elected Secretary.

The following were raised: Richard L. Patrick, Thos. P. Waters, John L. Waters, E. F. Walker, Fairfax Fitts, Rich G. Faulkner, J. J. Gilbert, R. H. Lewis, Jr., Herbert D. Spence, C. H. Jones and W. C. Boone. Brothers E. I. Hatcher, J. G. Campen, Isaac Stroud, W. B. Ward, J. B. Meacham and W. D. Lawson were admitted. Brothers

J. R. Rountree, E. M. Oettinger, W. T. Parrott and William A. Goodson were admitted. Two were excluded.

The Grand Lodge again held a special communication in Kinston, the occasion being the laying of the corner stone of the new United States Post Office at the corner of Queen and North Streets. Our Brother, C. L. Pridgen was acting Grand Master and presided over the ceremonies. The lodge was fortunate in having no deaths in its ranks this year.

1916

Brother Robert E. Cox was Master and R. G. Wooten, Secretary this year.

Samuel W. Guyes, R. G. Wooten, R. E. Newborn and Geo. K. West were raised; Thos. H. Faulkner re-instated; Jos. E. Cobb and Geo. B. Hanrahan, admitted. Three were excluded: John F. Stricklin, withdrew and C. H. Foy, Henry D. Harper, Joseph E. Cobb and Harry Stein, died; Richard Stroud by request was also given a dimit.

1917

Brother J. G. Campen was elected Master and R. E. Newborn, Secretary for this year.

McDaniel Lewis, S. L. Lynch, Roy H. Leach, W. A. Noble and O. C. Stroud were raised; W. J. Schaut, admitted; W. L. Holderby, W. H. Norris, F. S. Love, R. L. Hill, Richard L. Patrick, A. C. Bizzell and Claud L. Pridgen, withdrawn; R. H. Lewis, Sr., E. W. Bizzell and J. H. Darden, died.

The Grand Lodge paid St. John's lodge another signal honor this year by electing our Past Master, Claud L. Pridgen, Grand Master.

1918

Brother Elisha B. Lewis was Master and R. G. Wooten, Secretary this year. Brother W. G. Grady was appointed District Deputy Grand Master.

The following were raised: E. R. Oettinger, Lonnie Buck, I. M. Anselowitz, Ray R. West, M. M. Happer and C. F. Harvey, Jr. J. B. Browning and J. L. Hamme were admitted and Brothers Past Master W. D. Pollock, J. J. Moore and S. J. Hawes, died. (Brother Hawes died in service in France.)

This was a trying year for St. John's lodge as well as all the rest of the world. The Great War was apparently at the zenith of its intensity and it seemed that the very foundations of civil society were about to crumble, and to add to the horrors of the year the influenza in its most malignant form swept the country from end to end. All public gatherings were forbidden in order to check its spread and for three months the lodge did not hold a communication.

The young men of the lodge, as they have always done when the country called, rallied to the flag, the following enlisting and seeing



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active service in France: Matt H. Allen, Sam F. Linton, Roy H. Leach, Thos. P. Waters, R. H. Lewis, McDaniel Lewis, Meriwether Lewis, S. W. Hawes, Ray R. West, Grover B. Cox, R. G. Wooten, John L. Waters, H. D. Spence and C. F. Harvey, Jr.

1919

Brother William B. Ward was elected Master and Claud S. Chamberlain, Secretary.

Nine were raised as follows: John Michaelson, A. G. Outlaw, Louis F. Waters, John R. Weeks, C. C. Holland, George L. Jordan, Leonard L. Oettinger, A. I. Gross and Kenneth F. Foscue. Brother T. F. Wickliff was admitted; W. J. Richardson and H. M. Poe, withdrew and Past Master J. W. Black, A. J. Sutton and J. A. Broadhurst, died. (Brother Broadhurst died in South America and was not buried with masonic honors owing to the fact that he had been dead several months before the lodge knew of his death).

1920

Brother E. I. Hatcher was Master this year and William B. Ward, Secretary.

Masonry put on new life this year, there being twenty raised as follows: S. R. Taylor, R. T. Hood, Chester A. Walsh, Joseph Hirshfield, C. S. Chamberlain, T. M. Newborn, William I. Powell, J. Frank West, Jas. F. Parrott, Adolph Guyes, Luther H. Daw, Ely J. Perry, Norman B. Hill, John R. Denton, W. D. Debnam, R. Clayton Grady, R. A. Whitaker, Orin A. Bruton, W. L. Burnes and Grover C. Andrews.

Brother S. S. Tyndall was re-instated and D. A. Jamie, J. A. Edwards and J. F. Liles were admitted. Brothers Clem Bailey, H. H. Granger and W. D. Debnam, died. Brothers T. F. Wickliff and C. M. Beasley, withdrew and two were excluded.

1921

Brother M. M. Happer was Master and William B. Ward re-elected Secretary.

Thirteen were raised as follows: J. A. Bizzell, J. G. Poole, T. E. Stainback, Jas. A. Powers, Landon Humphrey, Albert Dek. Parrott, Mercer C. Parrott, J. E. Dickenson, F. Lee Edwards, John Hall Manning, Robert E. Todd, O. Stanley Waldrop and J. C. B. Koonce. Five were admitted: F. E. Wallace, D. C. Absher, J. I. Fordham, L. L. Mallard and J. Drew Martin. Past Grand Master Claud L. Pridgen, Jesse T. Heath and Benjamin Williams were restored. (Brother Pridgen withdrew in 1917 to take up the duties of Grand Lodge, later joining an army lodge in France).

Brothers Henry C. Bailey, T. B. Brown and G. V. Richardson, died and J. B. Meacham and J. J. Gilbert, withdrew.

1922

Brother Lonnie Buck was elected Master and William B. Ward re-elected Secretary.

Brothers Thos. A. Mitchell, H. M. Beasley, Jesse M. Griffin, Clifton F. West, Arthur L. Howard, Bruce D. Hodges, George A. Everington and A. L. Harrington were raised. Brothers Lee McBride White, Amos Stroud, Julian T. Hughes, George E. Haskett, Elmer H. Carver and L. J. Dupree were admitted.

Brother C. H. Albee was restored and W. D. Lawson, J. Naiman and O. C. Stroud, withdrew.

Brothers Floyd Hill, Y. T. Ormand and Past Master E. I. Hatcher, died. Three were excluded.

1923

Brother George L. Jordan was elected Master and William B. Ward, Secretary. Brother William B. Ward was District Deputy Grand Master.

There were nine raised as follows: W. Y. Richardson, Paul Collins, Roman J. Garner, Abe Silverstien, Arthur L. Weise, Romulus Markham, J. Albert Scott, W. H. Scott and J. H. Civils.

Dr. A. E. Corey was admitted. J. M. P. Joyner, J. F. Liles and W. M. Tyndall were restored. Past Master W. G. Taylor, Chas F. Harvey and C. J. Pittman, died. Three were excluded, and A. D. Parrott and Leonard L. Oettinger, withdrew.

